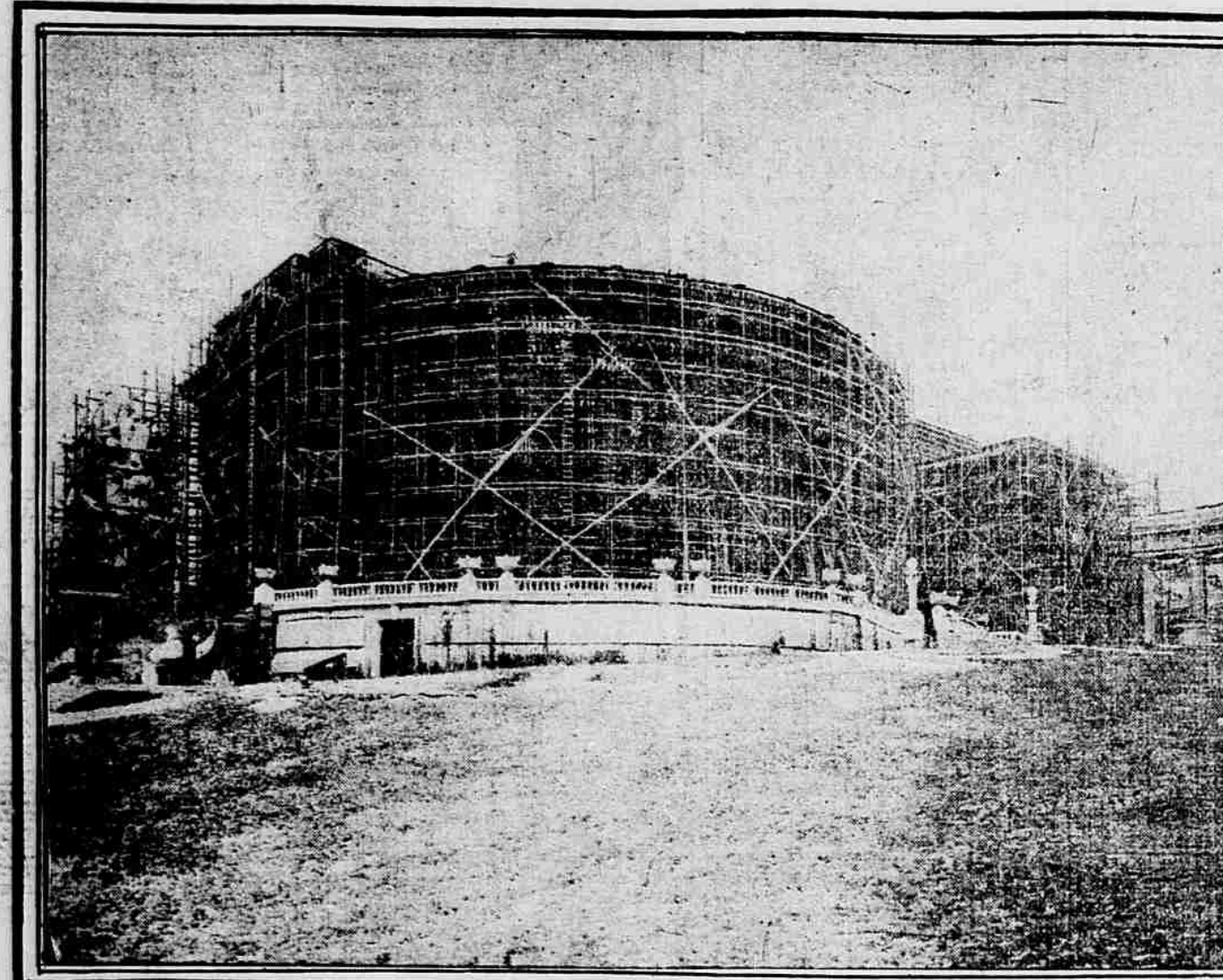
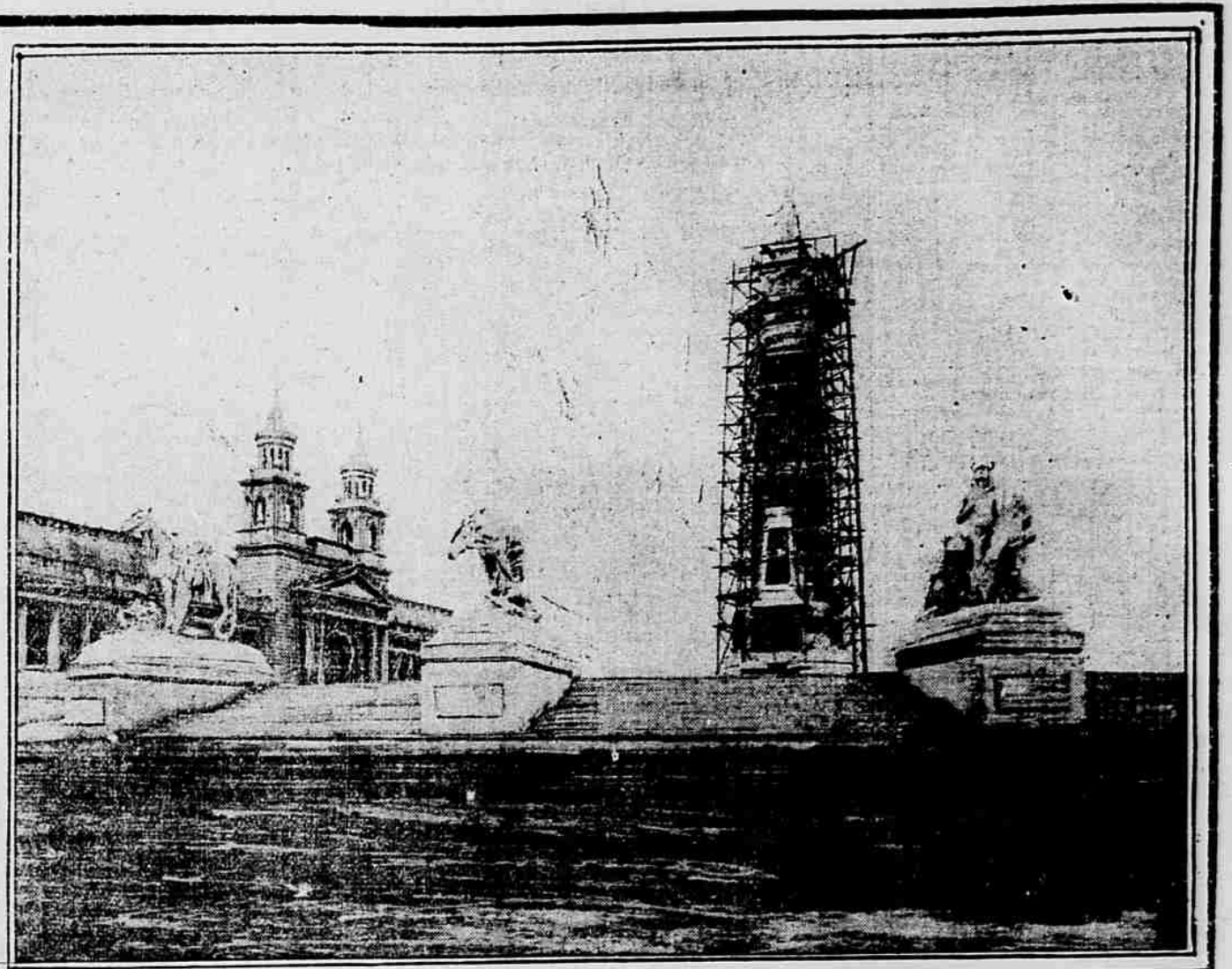


GRAND BASIN OF THE WORLD'S FAIR IS THE CENTER OF ACTIVE WINTER CONSTRUCTION WORK.



LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF FESTIVAL HALL.
Which is nearing completion.



TYPICAL BRIDGE SPANNING LESSER WATERWAYS OF THE EXPOSITION.

Hundreds of laborers are concentrating their efforts on the work involved in preparing the Great Basin of the World's Fair and finishing up construction of the buildings, landscape features and architectural details which will make the main picture of the Exposition the crowning glory of modern art and mechanical skill. At this time the various technical problems of engineering and art have been solved and placed in specific drawings and blue prints. It remains now for the superintendents to get in and push along the different things assigned to them to completion in a limited number of days. Results show that no calculation has been made without careful study.

The immense area which will be covered with water has been smoothed, so that now it is like a dancing floor. Teams of horses and mules, steam shovels and scrapers and platoons of men with pick and shovel were sent into the ditches, and when they left the clay and subsoil were ready to be covered with planks.

While the waterways are being prepared, hosts of electric workers slipped in and set the standards which will carry the incandescent bulbs designed for illuminating the Exposition water area.

These skilled laborers made no furor when they entered the grounds. Assigned to certain tasks they performed them and the public was no wiser when the last job was made.

Plans to cover the Grand Basin and waterways with cement, which were discussed early in the construction period of the Fair, have been abandoned. Instead of concrete, the bottoms of the lagoons will be floored with thick timbers, hewn and prepared in States of the Louisiana Purchase.

Some idea of the magnitude of this work can be formed when it is known that

the waterways, including the Grand Basin, will cover more than 200,000 square feet. If cut up into flooring for dwellings, the bottom of the lagoons would supply whole city blocks.

At the south end of the Grand Basin there appears the great picture formed by Art Hill, crowned by Festival Hall, the Colonnade of States and the east and west pavilions. Festival Hall is rising almost like a mushroom from its foundations, which will carry out the color scheme.

With the aid of hoisting engines and other appliances of modern construction, heavy beams are jerked lightly into place, arches are formed and strong timber walls, conforming to plan and design, spring up almost in a night.

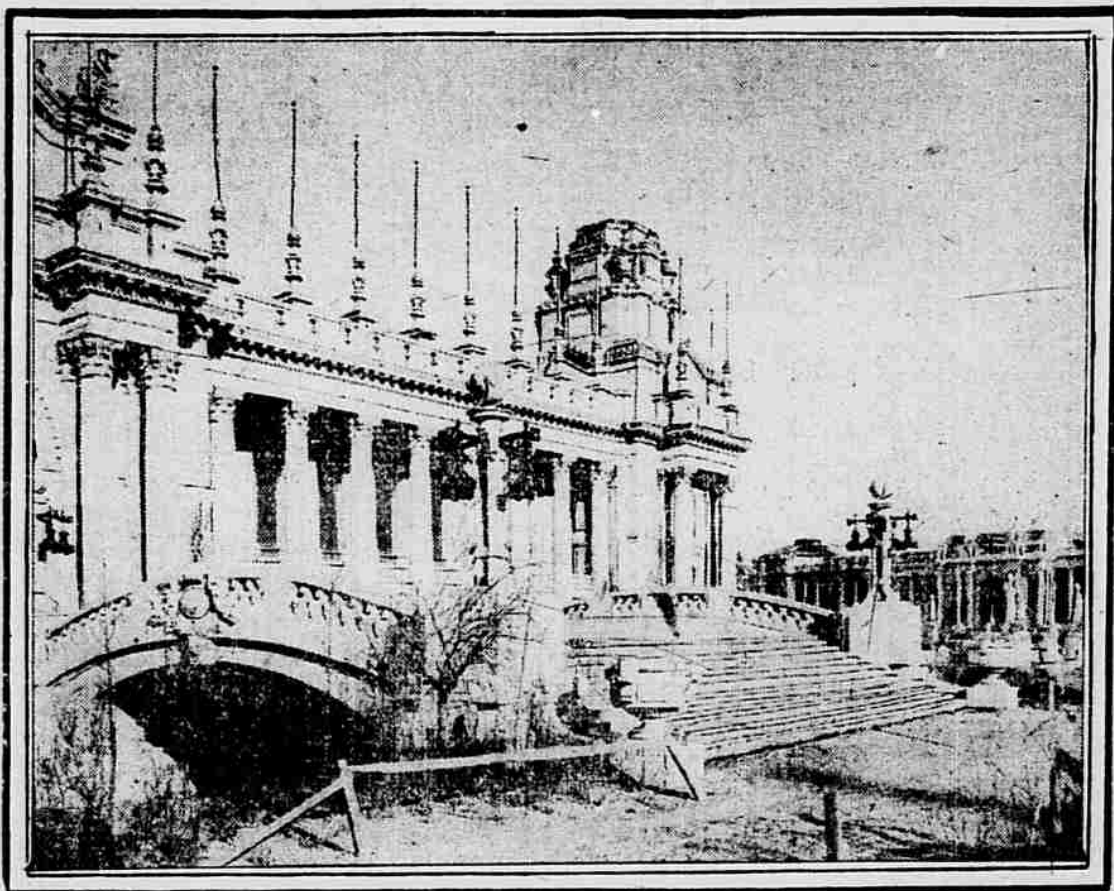
A dome, larger than St. Peter's, which was decided in building, will be thrown up on the World's Fair grounds in less than four months.

The landscaping on Art Hill is as complete as a St. Louis winter will permit. All the trees and hardy shrubbery have been planted, and the flower beds have been laid out and covered with straw. With the coming of spring these beds will be ready for planting thousands of flowers, which will carry out the color scheme.

At the north end of the Grand Basin there is a different picture. There the artistic effect is produced by groups of statuary, the classical outlines of exhibit palaces, a well-laid-out plaza, and the striking outlines of the Louisiana Purchase monument. Three of the five sculptures have been set in place, and the central monument will soon be completed.

With stairways lead down to the level of the water. At the base of these steps Venetian gondolas, steam and electric launches and other Exposition craft will land to take on their freight of Exposition visitors and carry them through the windings of the waterways.

In the arms of the Grand Basin, designed on World's Fair maps as waterways, everything is in readiness for placing the flooring. Bridges have been thrown across the channels and minor details, such as ornamentation and landscaping, are complete.



STATUES AND LOUISIANA PURCHASE MONUMENT AT NORTH END OF GRAND BASIN.

NEWS BY CABLE TO THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

FRENCH BUDGET PASSED EARLY.

M. Rouvier Earns Distinct Triumph for This, as Well as for Increasing Tax Receipts.

NATION'S POSITION IMPROVED.

Monthly Statements Show Surplus Instead of Deficit, and France Is on Better Footing With Powers.

BY J. CORNELLY.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, Paris, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—The year the budget was passed by the Chamber of Deputies on December 4, one month earlier than in other years, and consequently month to month loans can be avoided. This is a triumph for M. Rouvier, who has, moreover, won other victories; for, since people have been blaming him for a diminution of the returns from tax, it is proper to credit him with an increase.

We are reaching the end of the year 1903 with notable monthly surpluses, and this financial prosperity has for accompaniment an international situation such as has not been before known by the Republic, which has been so long regarded with suspicion by Europe on account of its assumed weakness.

The Republic has grown little by little in the esteem of nations. First by its alliance with Russia. Then groups of men of good will on each side of the channel have little by little created a current of opinion favorable to a cordial understanding with England. At the same time the similarity of their attitude toward the Papacy, the resemblance of their aspirations, and, finally, recollections of their former friendship have tended toward reconciliation.

To-day Russia, England, France and Italy stand closely united, without being under pressure from events, and, above all, without being under pressure from the people themselves.

"TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE." If such events had been foretold to us ten years ago, we would have said "That is too good." Well, these events are taking place now, we touch upon them and it is just to add that, to this understanding

of the four European Powers, correspond the very precious sympathies of North America, which has become a friend, after an existing enmity.

I ought to admit that we are adding as little as possible by our efforts in these results, which have been attained, so to speak, in spite of us.

Our political world is being dragged into ridicule with that odious matter of the Committee of Inquiry on the Humbert case. Its members have just fallen victims to a practical joke named "Cris" who has from Caracassonne and accuses his uncle, a doctor in medicine, for a certain having documents showing that a certain M. Bruguier, a deserter, was pardoned because his parents paid a bribe of \$200 to the Humberts; that this sum, moreover, was embezzled for the benefit of a politician, whose services they had needed, and that this politician is M. Constans. The same is enough to show the lack of truth in the whole yarn, for Constans, since he suppressed Boulanger, the most atrocious and the most foolish calumnies. It is at this point that serious people themselves joined in the ridicule. Members of Parliament have been thus united to a calumnious accusation by people who wanted to prove that the spirit of caste was the only proof that has yet been given of the silliness of the members of the committee.

DREYFUS CASE. The Dreyfus case has not yet been proceeded with, and it will be necessary to wait three months for the order of the Court of Cassation, which needs this time to make its investigation. Sensible people think the Court of Cassation itself will acquit Dreyfus, there is cause for it, instead of sending him before a new court-martial, and they hope for this, as it is to be feared that the spirit of caste will overshadow in the minds of the officers the spirit of justice. The court-martial had an honor to copy, as other, as did the five Ministers of War whose testimony is added against Dreyfus, and who all say the same thing because the first said it.

That is the question raised at present, and it is a curious thing that those of us who demand that someone should be given to the court-martial because they consider them incapable of doing justice. The Senate has voted, namely for those concerned in strikes. Nationalist Senators demand an extension of the pardon to those condemned for political offenses. The Senate refused to grant their request, the present situation not seeming conducive to the taking of measures to disarm the Republic.

Some stir has been caused by a play—without return merit for that matter—entitled "Return From Jerusalem," and directed by the Hebrews. Although played in a theater managed by a Hebrew and by a Hebrew actor, the play was not refused, for a play by M. Ancey, entitled "These Gentry," and directed against the clergy. This we have now a question of censorship and people ready to reply to attacks against the Hebrews by attacks against the Jesuits.

MINISTER'S WIFE IS GUEST OF KING EDWARD.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, London, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—Mrs. Lawrence Townsley, wife of the United States Minister to Brussels, was among the guests of the King and Queen at Sandringham. Consuelo, Duchess of Marlborough, was also a member of the royal house party, and she, with Sir Edward and Lady Colbrooke, is included among those invited to meet their Majesties at Chatsworth.

Mrs. Choate and Miss Choate, who have

been passing the week in the country, returned yesterday. The Ambassador and his family expect to spend Christmas in their new house in Carlton House Gardens. If the women finish in time, John S. Sargent is now busy at his studio, in this street, on his work for the spring exhibition in Burlington House.

WOMEN TO BE FINED FOR WEARING BIRD PLUMAGE.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, London, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—The Humane League evidently is looking for trouble. It is certainly safe to say that should Parliament take any cognizance of the bill the league has drawn many of its clauses will have to be eliminated.

For instance, the bill provides that women ornamenting themselves with the plumage of rare and beautiful birds shall be treated under the summary jurisdiction act and fined anything up to £25. Also the league suggests that an article which gives offense shall be seized and confiscated, proceedings which no doubt will lead to making the fur, as well as feathers, fly.

MANAGER FINES ACTRESS FOR NOT TRYING TO PLEASE.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, Paris, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—A curious point in theatrical law is now before the Paris courts. An actress is su-

ing a manager because, it is alleged, he fined her because he was dissatisfied with the performance. At first sight this seems arbitrary, but the manager's story throws a different light on the affair. He states that the actress desires to break her contracts, and to force his hand, she has been purposely. In order to ouster her scheme, he fines her. He says if he were not allowed to do so all theater discipline would be at an end.

REJANE TO MAKE AMERICAN TOUR OF FIFTEEN WEEKS.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, Paris, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—Mr. George Tyler is returning to New York on the Lucania on Saturday after a flying visit, in the course of which he completed arrangements for Mme. Rejane to make a fifteen weeks' tour in the United States.

The brilliant French actress will begin her tour in New York in November of next year, immediately after the election, and will play for seven weeks in the Empire City in selected plays from her repertoire, which comprises about a score of pieces. One play which is certain to be selected is "Zola."

LONDON WOMEN ORGANIZE CLUB TO BREED MICE.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, London, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—The aversion which most women have for rats and mice is well known, and the fact that

the rodents are becoming popular with the fair sex as pets creates no little surprise. Not only is this really the case, but a mouse club has been formed, with a membership of more than 200, principally ladies. The points of the prized vermin are laid down with all the nicety of kennel club rules.

Mr. W. Massey of Poplar, who is secretary of the club, is the author of a most exhaustive book on the treatment and breeding of mice, and is now busily engaged in preparing for publication "The Mouse Journal."

Two shows were held this week, at one of which the exhibits numbered several hundred. They were of various colors, but the white shell are the most valuable, and it is said that nothing short of \$250 would buy a good specimen.

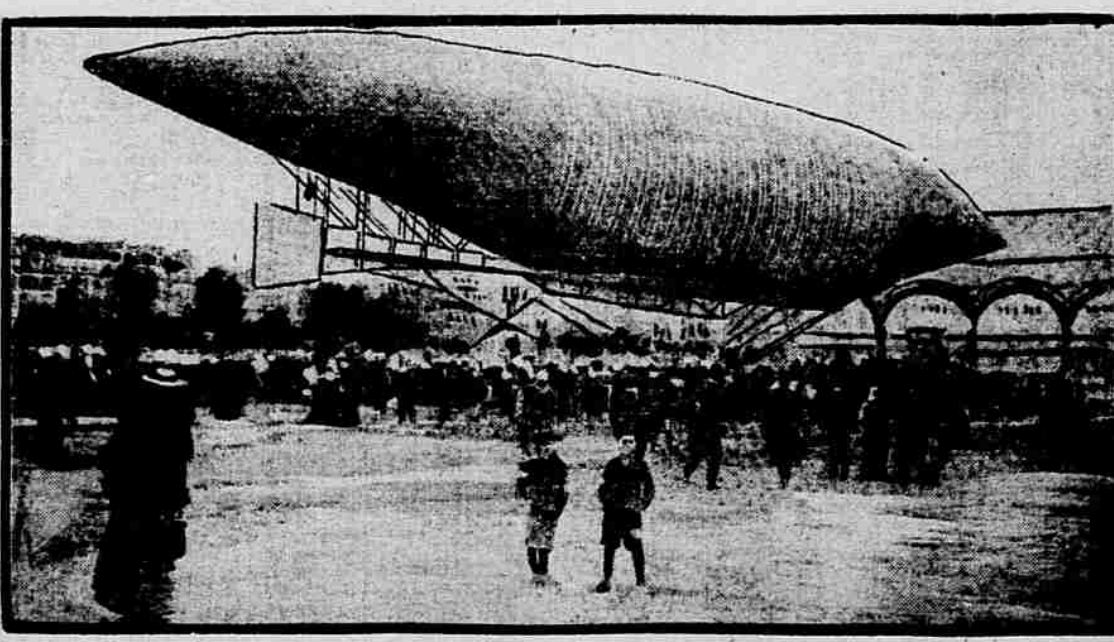
Among well-known women who have adopted this peculiar mice hobby are the Honorable Miss Grimston and Miss Angela Cockburn. De Kinson, niece of Lord Londesborough, while Miss M. G. Newall of Cheltenham is one of the most enthusiastic rat fanciers, and her exhibits this week gained many awards.

PAINTER IN TROUBLE FOR IMITATING MASTERS.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, Paris, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—M. Raynaud, a painter and pupil of M. Jean Paul Laurens, has been caught making clever imitations of Millet, Daubigny, Corot and Jassens, which were sold by the dealers to an amateur for \$100 and \$200 apiece.

The amateur discovered the fraud, and has brought a criminal suit against the dealer and painter. The case will be heard in the Correctional Court next Tuesday.

CONTEST FOR MASTERY OF THE AIR.



M. LEBAUDY'S DIRIGIBLE BALLOON, THE "JAUNE."

Paris, Dec. 12.—M. Pierre and Paul Lebaudy, cousins of the "Emperor of the Sahara," recently made a remarkable balloon voyage from Molsheim to the Champ de Mars in the "Jaune." The Lebaudy airship is about 30 meters in length, 10 in breadth and has a volume of nearly 2,200 cubic meters. The frame below is 21 meters long and 6 meters wide. The car is nearly 3 meters long and about a meter and a half broad. It has two sets of steering gear and two screws worked by a forty-horse-power motor.

DEATH FOLLOWS FALL DOWN STAIRS.

Lord Abinger of London Dies in Hospital at Paris Following Accident in Cafe.

BRITISH EMBASSY ADVISED.

Mother Is a Daughter of the Late Commodore Magruder of the United States Navy.

Paris, France, Dec. 12.—Lord Abinger died in a hospital here today as the result of injuries sustained in falling down the stairs of a restaurant.

He was born in 1871. His mother is a daughter of the late Commodore Magruder, U. S. N.

Lord Abinger arrived in Paris two days ago, accompanied by a valet, and occupied an apartment at the Elysee Palace Hotel. Last night Abinger went with a companion to the Restaurant Tabarin, in the Montmartre quarter.

Following a supper lasting until midnight Lord Abinger showed signs of indisposition and made an effort to leave, when he fell down the stairway. He became unconscious and was carried to a hospital near by, where he died soon after his arrival.

The attending physicians gave heart disease, brought on by the shock of the fall, as the cause of death.

The police authorities advised the British Embassy of Lord Abinger's death, and the officers caused the body to be removed to Mortuary Chapel of Montmartre Cemetery, pending the final disposition.

The oldest sister of the Lord, Mrs. Scarlett Synges, is a fully qualified doctor. She is River Colony, and was formerly assistant High School at Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, was formerly assistant surgeon to the Emperor of Korea, and also surgeon of the refugee camp at Norval's Pont during the South African war.

MOTHER CALLED TO PARIS. Lord Abinger received a telegram to-day asking her to come to Paris immediately, and she started on the morning train, but she had no intimation of her son's tragic death when she departed.

KING EDWARD HELPED BY ELECTRIC BATHS.

Appears to Have Been Restored to Old-Time Vigor and Elasticity—Does Great Amount of Work.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, London, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—The fact that King Edward gets through so much work and yet retains unimpaired his elasticity and vigor has been a source of wonder for a long time, even to members of the medical profession. The explanation of the mystery is offered at last. For a month past his Majesty is said to have been taking electric light baths.

These scientific rejuvenators are installed at Windsor Castle and at Buckingham Palace. They are of the double light variety, with a protector of 250-candels power for use in local affections of the body. Inside the bath, in which a sitting posture is adopted, there are fifty-two electric lamps, which radiate any colored light desired. The light not only permeates every part of the body, but has a sort of Turkish bath effect. The lights are of colors which scientists say have curative effects on certain ailments.

The King was present at the Marlton Castle Show this week, and many were the comments expressed on his well-being. He was one of the keenest spectators and moved about the pens with an activity that would have done credit to a man of half his age.

Few men on this side understand cattle so well as the King. He looks after the breeding of his own cattle and knows as much about it as any farmer among his subjects, and his comments at the Marlton Talking of what he knows, Sir Nigel Kingscote, who has devoted his life to the subject, confessed that he knew less than the King. The King won many cups for cattle at the show.

KAISER VISITS BERLIN AGAIN.

Appears Quite Well and Speaks in Natural Tone, Though Less Frequently Than of Old.

LOUDLY CHEERED BY CROWDS.

Public Shows Marked Enthusiasm in Spite of the Fact That No Notice Was Given of Emperor's Visit.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Emperor William and the Empress arrived here today from Potsdam. They were warmly cheered by the crowds in the streets.

It was the Emperor's first appearance in several months, and he appeared in a good color, such as he naturally would have from hours spent every day in the open air of the park.

The Emperor and Empress came to Berlin on a special train, which arrived at the Potsdam Station at 3 o'clock. The Emperor walked briskly, almost jived, from the private entrance of the station to a close court carriage, pausing for an instant to acknowledge by a military salute the cheers of the accidental crowds attracted by the sight of the court equipage and the unusual details of police, for no one knew precisely what member of the royal family was expected.

Spontaneous cheers broke out as the Emperor became visible in the doorway. The inhabitants of Berlin are not used to cheering, and the outburst, therefore, was remarkable.

Similar demonstrations took place all along the thoroughfares from the station and commented on it with a great deal of cheerfulness, most of whom, however, could barely catch a glimpse of the Emperor's features through the windows of his carriage.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY TO BE LIGHTED BY ELECTRICITY.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, London, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—Westminster Abbey is to undergo something tantamount to a revolution. The historic Pyx Chapel, the massive door of which is a familiar feature in what is popularly known as the dark cloisters, is about to be lighted by electricity and thrown open for inspection.

Public entrance to the chapel was no easy matter, for no fewer than seven keys were necessary before the two oaken doors would swing open. It was in this chapel, one of whose doors was up-holed in human skin, that in days gone by were held Government standards and masses of gold. Among other contents of the place are a curious stone altar and some ancient armor, which State ornaments, exchequer tally sticks and other things were deposited.

POSITIVELY REFUSED TO REMOVE HAT IN THEATER.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, Paris, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—The question of women's hats in theaters has caused rather a sensational incident at the Nice Opera-house. Mme. de Revitsky, wife of the Russian Consul at Naples, who was formerly at Nice, insisted on wearing her hat, although the regulation forbade it. The bidding hats in the boxes and orchestra chairs. Her refusal to comply with the request of the officials led to intervention by a Police Commissary, who threatened to draw up an official report. Thereupon, Mme. de Revitsky left the theater with her husband, who has brought the case before the Ambassador. A solution of the matter is awaited with much interest.

MME. DE LOSTENDE WAS EMPRESS EUGENIE'S FRIEND.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC, Paris, Dec. 12.—(Copyright, 1903.)—Past glories are recalled by the recent death of Mme. Coppens de Lostende, one of the smartest women of the Second Empire, a close friend of Empress Eugenie. She took part in the famous "Quadrille des Abelles," at a brilliant costume ball in the Tuilleries Palace, when the Empress was present in the costume of the wife of a Doge, wearing all the crown diamonds.

The funeral of Mme. Coppens was celebrated on Monday in St. Augustine.